THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) However, it is stated that the Supreme Court *vide* its interim order dated 10-3-2003 in SLP (C) No. 3668/2003 directed the Government, *inter alia,* to "consider and formulate appropriate criteria for ensuring essential and life saving drugs not to fall out of price control and further directed to review drugs which are essential and life saving in nature till 2nd May, 2003". As per the directions of the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare reviewed the National Essential Drugs List 1996 and brought out the National List of Essential Medicines 2003 (NLEM 2003).

Keeping in view the directions of the Supreme Court it has been proposed in the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 that basket of drugs for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the NLEM 2003 in addition to the 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.

This Policy was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11-1-2007. It was decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM).

Shortage of fertilizers in Madhya Pradesh

455. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the States particularly Madhya Pradesh have been facing shortage of all chemical fertilizers including urea;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this regard; and

(c) the effective steps taken by Government to avoid shortages of fertilizers so that farmers don't face difficulties as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) While the Demand, availability and sale of fertilizers in the country during 2006-07 (upto January'07) were as follows, sufficient availability of fertilizers was ensured by the Department

of Fertilizers in each of the months in Kharif and Rabi at the state level in all the States including Madhya Pradesh:

01.04.2006 to 31.01.2007 *(in lakh MT)*

Product	Demand (assessed before the season)	Availability	Sales
Urea	223.12	222.94	208.71
DAP	73.46	77.79	62.09
MOP	28.44	22.76	20.06

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Government has approved the New Pricing Scheme (NPS) Stage III on 1.02.2007 to be implemented with effect from 1.10.2006. Under the NPS III, the movement of urea will be monitored throughout the country by an on-line web based monitoring system. The subsidy on urea will be paid only when urea reaches the district. Further, the Department will operate a buffer stock through the State Institutional Agencies/fertilizer companies in major consuming states up to a limit of 5% of the seasonal requirement.

As far as decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers are concerned, subsidy is released on sale of fertilizers. The responsibility of meeting the full requirement of decontrolled fertilizers in any state is with the concerned state governments. State governments have been advised to identify at least one State Institutional Agency, which would deal with the required quantities of decontrolled fertilizers. Buffer stocking of decontrolled fertilizers by the Government of India would be made only to meet any emergent requirement.

To ensure availability of urea in all parts of the country, the freight reimbursement to urea units wilt now be on actual rail and road leads. The total additional impact of this provision is estimated at Rs. 99.98 crores per annum.

Revival of IDPL units

456. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to revive various units of the Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL); and